Procurement of Hindi typewriters

†3940. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the name of such offices under his Ministry/Department where there is not a single Hindi typewriter so far;

(b) the reasons for not purchasing the Hindi typewriter so far and the officers responsible for such kind of negligence; and

(c) the action taken to ensure the compliance of targets fixed for the purchase of Hindi typewriter by the Department of Official Language in its annual Hindi programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Monitoring of tourist offices abroad

3941. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) how effectively the tourist offices outside the country are facilitating tourist inflow to the country; and

(b) whether there is any plan for better monitoring the results of such offices ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) The performance of tourist offices overseas is considered satisfactory. The increase in the tourist inflow into the country has been 5.2% during 1999.

(b) The monitoring of these offices is a continuous exercise. However increasing use of Information Technology is being made for better monitoring of the offices.

Facilities offered to foreign tourists

3942. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2738 given in the Rajya Sabha on 18th April, 2000 and state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) what special facilities are being offered to foreign tourists; and

(b) the details for different parts of the country separately ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Tourist facilities are generally made available to both Domestic and Foreign Tourists. Discover India packages on Indian Airlines, Indrail Passes on Trains, Foreign Tourist Quota on Trains through International Tourist Bureaus at Metro Cities are the main facilities especially extended to foreign tourists.

Business deals in tourism during American President's Visit

3943. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian and American companies have clinched business deals in the tourism sector during the visit of President Clinton to India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Development of Tourism in Kerala

3944. SHRI E. BALANANDAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise details of total amount set by the Central Government for the development of tourism in the country especially in Kerala during Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) whether any detailed scheme has been submitted by the State Government for the overall development of tourism in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Rs. 16132.00 lakhs have been allocated during the Ninth Five Plan for development of tourist infrastructure in the country in the Central sector.

Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance for tourism projects prioritised in consultation with the State Governments every year. Rs. 1524.33